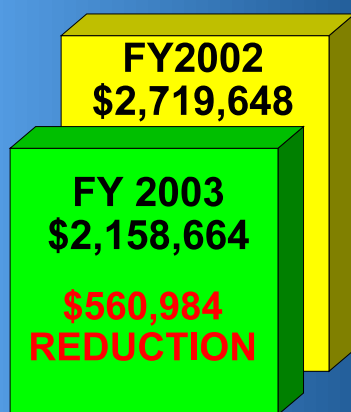


## Funding Cuts Hit Iowa Legal Aid

**Iowa Legal Aid is projecting a budget shortfall of approximately \$1.1 million in 2003. This represents more than 20 percent of the organization's budget.**

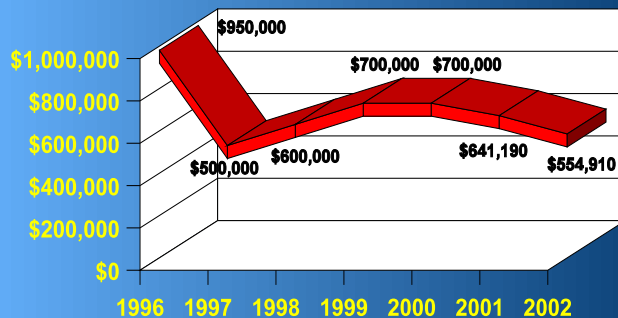
**LSC Funding for Iowa Legal Aid is projected to decrease by 21% next year...**



- Federal funding from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) has been cut by more than \$290,000, a 10.8 percent reduction, due to the 2000 Census figures. The number of low-income people living in Iowa hasn't dropped significantly, but federal dollars will be shifted to states with faster-growing populations. Federal funding for next year is anticipated to be reduced another \$280,000 which will result in federal funding that is over \$560,000 less than the current level.

**Funding Appropriated by the Iowa General Assembly from 1996 to the Current Fiscal Year**

**Legal Services Grants Program**



- State funding remains over \$200,000 less than the 1996 funding level of \$950,000
- Low interest rates have reduced the grant from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Commission by 5% in the current fiscal year and may be reduced by as much as 30% for the next fiscal year.
- A hiring freeze has kept eleven attorney positions from being filled statewide. Iowa's legal services staff are among the lowest paid in the profession, with entry level salaries at \$30,750 per year.